

EDWARD CALHOUN SNEED HANGED AT INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY

His Last Day on Earth Dark and Gloomy Befitting the Solemn Event.

The Doomed Man Baptized in the Catholic Faith and Prepared for Death.

Visited Last Night by His Mother, One of His Sisters and an Intimate Friend.

The Girl Who Loved a Convict But Transferred her Affection to Sneed.

The Pitiful Agony of the Murderer's Mother When Parting from Her Boy.

Fellow Prisoners Exhort the Condemned Man to Accept Religious Aid and Consolation.

As the Clock Strikes the Hour of 12 He Asks to Be Told How to Pray.

Story of the Deliberate and Cold Blooded Crime for Which Sneed Was Hanged.

Handman's day opened Independence with leaden skies and a steady down-pour of rain. The town awoke earlier than usual and by seven o'clock the streets in the neighborhood of the jail began to be peopled. A stranger entering Independence at that hour would have been astonishedly decided that some unusual and exciting event was on the tapis. There was a look of expectation on the faces of the pedestrians which the damp, raw and generally dispirited surroundings could not efface. By 9 o'clock the court house square was thronged with people, while a score of men were tethered at the curbs. A large crowd gathered in front of the jail and gazed curiously at the side door of the structure, which frequently opened to admit some visitor. There was no attempt to get nearer, all appearing to be thoroughly convinced of the fact that they were about to get near the scene of the day's chief work.

Some time before the ordinance of baptism was administered to the doomed man, Marshal McGowan and his assistants tested the gallows for the last time before the execution. The instrument of death stood in an enclosure 30 by 40 feet, and was supported by a heavy iron frame. A board fence twenty feet high cut off all view of it. The gallows was of pine timber, the platform containing the trap door being ten feet above ground and 10x12 feet in dimensions.

The platform was supported by a heavy iron frame, which occupied the center of the platform, was the cross-beam to which the rope was attached. The lever which caused the trap door to drop was at the east end of the platform and was worked by a long handle, which extended to the jail a covered approach to the gallows had been constructed of pine boards.

In the trial of the instrument a bag of sand, weighing 175 pounds, was suspended from a hook which hung from the cross-beam and suffered to rest on the trap. Then the lever was pulled and the bag dropped the required distance. The officials were entirely satisfied with the experiment.

By this time the hour of 11 had arrived and the interior of the sturdy little jail was the scene of much commotion and suppressed activity. Captain Ditch, of the Kansas City police force, with a detail of ten men, had been ordered to the scene and were now standing in the building aside from the execution.

At 11:15 a final test of the trap was made, and the rope was placed on the scaffold.

The Marshal's carriage arrived at 11:30. The guard immediately proceeded to surround the enclosure. At that time there were fifty people inside.

While the mournful preparations for Sneed's taking off were making outside, and scenes were being enacted in the condemned man's cell. In the corridor, upon which the cell opened, about a dozen persons were congregated, including three Sisters of Mercy, Father Lillis, several officials and a number of reporters.

Smoothly-shaven face and hair neatly parted, upon the edge of his cot. He was attired in a blue sack coat and striped trousers, the suit which he had worn during the past few months. It was the intention to supply him with a new black suit, but he had expressed no wish to have new clothing had with his boots on. He appeared cool and fully impressed with the awfulness of his position.

At 12 o'clock while the Sisters were conversing with him, Benjamin Wightman, a member of the Kansas City Y. M. C. A., entered the cell and after a few moments' conversation with Sneed, sang "Rock of Ages" for him, and then knelt and offered a prayer for the condemned man's soul. Just as he was beginning to wax eloquent in layman's phrase, Sneed's eyes were turned to heaven, and he said:

"I turn around to the east, to the throne of grace, Father Lillis entered the cell and informed him that as the Catholic church had performed the last rites for the man, he need not permit him to proceed. Mr. Wightman then withdrew after shaking hands with Sneed.

Rev. Gotschall, city minister, then approached him and asked what he should tell his mother and sister for him. He replied: "Give them my love and tell them farewell, but not forever."

Fathers O'Donnell and Hanley, of the cathedral parish, Kansas City, arrived at 12:30 o'clock. The death warrant was read to Sneed's mother, and she was then taken to the cathedral.

At 12:30 o'clock the Sisters of Mercy, Father Lillis, several officials and a number of reporters were gathered in front of the jail and gazed curiously at the side door of the structure, which frequently opened to admit some visitor. There was no attempt to get nearer, all appearing to be thoroughly convinced of the fact that they were about to get near the scene of the day's chief work.

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or sign of emotion from him. He stood the ordeal with phlegm, a brave.

SNEED BAPTIZED BY A PRIEST.

Sisters of Mercy With Him Before the Mournful Ceremony.

Sneed slept continuously until 6 o'clock this morning. When he awoke at that hour he greeted the guards and his fellow-prisoners with a pleasant "Good morning."

An hour later breakfast was brought him, which he ate with evident relish. It consisted of beefsteak, potatoes, bread and butter and coffee.

At 9 o'clock Mother Lillis and five Sisters of Mercy from Independence came to see him. Sister Mary from Independence put in his appearance. The sisters spent an hour in the doomed man's cell, urging him to prepare himself to meet his fate.

At 10 o'clock Father Lillis and the Sisters were in the cell, praying with Sneed. No one else was admitted to stay in the hold.

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of evidence sufficient to convict. Grison is now confined in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Ex-Prosecuting Attorney Withers says that the claim of Sneed's friends, that his nature was changed by a kick in the head, is a pure invention. Mr. Withers represented Sneed when he was first arrested.

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